The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 2024 — WILLIAM GREEN, *President* — WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1950 — GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer* — VOL. 40, NO. 4

Listen to Frank Edwards On Mutual at 10

AFL Hails Argentine Meat Workers' Bid For Closer Ties Despite Peron

Washington.—AFL President William Green welcomed New Year's greetings from the Argentine National Federation of Meat Packing employes, Buenos Aires, which were extended despite the antagonism of Argentine Dictator Peron for the AFL and democratic free trade unions.

Felix Vega, secretary of press and education, and Roberto Golden, in charge of inter-American relations, for the Argentine meat workers, wrote the following letter to Mr. Green:

"The Executive Board of the National Federation of Meat Industry Employes, on the occasion of the coming new year, wishes to express fraternal greetings to their colleagues, the members of the American Federation of Labor.

"This greeting is not sent as a customary courtesy but rather represents our sincere desire to come closer to your organization on the eve of the new year in order to show that the workers of the world are united by firm bonds of solidarity and are resolved to build up an impassable barrier against the inhuman pretensions of international capital.

"We wish most sincerely your organization and everyone of its members complete success in your endeavor to promote the welfare of the workers, and we want to assure you that every one of your successes will bring joy and happiness to us.

"Please accept and convey to all the members of your organization the Fraternal greetings of all the honorable workers employed in the meat industry."

Mr. Green replied:

"I have received with grateful appreciation your kind letter of December 27, 1949, wishing me personally, and all the members of the American Federation of Labor, continued success during the year 1950 in our endeavor to promote the welfare of the wage earners of our country. I have also noted with sincere rejoicing your appeal for closer cooperation between the workers of the world in order to build up an impregnable wall against the anti-labor offensive.

"It was for this very purpose that the American Federation joined several years ago with other independent, democratic trade unions of the Western Hemisphere in forming the Inter-American Confederation of Workers (C. T. V.), and has very recently taken on a prominent part in organizing the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

"Through these international trade union bodies we are resolved to work in cooperation with our brothers and brothers in every part of the world for the multiple purpose of strengthening the ranks of organized labor, bring about a higher standard of living, defeat the designs of reactionary and totalitarian forces and promote the advent and the stabilization, everywhere, of peace, democracy and freedom.

"On my personal behalf and on behalf of the entire membership of the American Federation of Labor, I wish to you and to all the officers and members of your great organization sincerest wishes for personal happiness and ever increasing trade union success."

★ OPPOSES MOVIE TAX

New York.—Richard F. Walsh, president of the AFL International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes and Moving Picture Machine Operators, has called on his union locals to work for relief from the 20 percent federal tax on theater admissions.

"Relief from the tax will surely help theater business," Mr. Walsh said in a letter to local unions. "Whatever helps the box office helps the men and women who work in the industry. Every member has a personal stake in this fight."

Pre-Packaged Meat Saves Butcher Time

Washington.—The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that most food buyers like selecting pre-cut and pre-wrapped meats from a self-service counter.

And, furthermore, the method saves three cents of the butcher's time.

Most of the butchers are members of the AFL Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America.

The agriculture department said shoppers like the prepackaged plan "because it does away with waiting line at the meat counter, gives larger selection of meats, and makes it easier to buy the kind and quantity of meat to suit the family budget."

Gompers Stamps Slated For Tobin

Washington.—Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin was slated to receive an album of Samuel Gompers commemorative stamps at ceremonies in the U. S. Postoffice Department Jan. 27.

Postmaster General Jesse M. Donaldson planned the presentation to which AFL President William Green, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany and other notables were invited.

Mr. Donaldson said Mr. Tobin would receive the autographed album as the representative of labor, on behalf of all of organized labor.

The stamp honoring the founder and first president of the AFL will go on sale for the first time on Jan. 27, the 100th anniversary of the birth of Mr. Gompers. It will be purple, three-cents denomination, and will be of the "Famous Americans" series. It is the first ever issued by the United States in honor of a labor leader.

Edwards Reads His Mail—Pro and Con

Washington.—Frank Edwards, AFL news commentator, reads mail from his listeners, most of whom like his pleasant forthright handling of events. Edwards' broadcasts are heard Monday through Saturday nights over the Mutual Broadcasting System in drawing thousands of cards and letters from all over the nation.

Dutch Send AFL Gratitude Book

Washington.—AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany has just received from the Dutch Metalworkers Federation a handsomely bound volume of 200 pages, illustrated with the people express their thanks to Americans for their aid in reconstructing that country.

The book, illustrated with many excellent pictures, is entitled, "Here We Are Uncle Sam, Holland Calling You."

Specifically, the volume was presented to the AFL in appreciation for the food packages sent by AFL members to the Netherlands.

The book points out that the United Netherlands was founded in order to recognize the struggling United Provinces of Holland in 1795 and that Dutch bankers in 1794 lent the United Labor Congress 30 million guilders—"the Dutch Marshall-aid to the U. S. A."

"And now in conclusion a personal word to you all, men, women and children of the United States of America. We, the Dutch people, feel that it is also thanks to you that we can continue our material reconstruction of this small strip of land wrested from the sea. You can help us to liberate us from foreign oppressors, you also launched out with a strong hand to assist us to revive this wounded and weakened country of ours. Here are helping us to get the sails of our Dutch windmills turning again."

Tobin Praises Gompers' Vision

New York.—Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin praised the vision and leadership of Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the AFL, in a broadcast portion of the rapid broadcast of "The Education of A Labor Leader."

The half hour dramatization of Mr. Gompers early life was presented on Jan. 22 by the Jewish Theological Seminary over the Eternal Light program over the National Broadcasting Company. Elmo Roper played the role of Gompers.

"Samuel Gompers' entire life was devoted to educating himself and others to the basic principles of the labor movement and democracy," the Secretary of Labor said. He reviewed the achievements of Mr. Gompers in the International Affairs Committee of the United States.

"The social, welfare and economic advances of the past half-century bear out the wisdom of Samuel Gompers' vision," Mr. Tobin said.

The broadcast was a highlight of the AFL's year-long celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Mr. Gompers on Jan. 27.

MEANY, ROMUALDI AT HAVANA MEET

Washington.—AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany and Serafino Romualdi, Latin American representative of the AFL, departed for Havana, Cuba, where they will attend the meeting of the executive committee of the Inter-American Confederation of Workers Jan. 26-28.

The committee is expected to take steps to implement the policies of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions organized in London last November. Plans for organizational work in Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras are also under consideration.

The situation of the labor unions in the dictator-controlled countries of Argentina, Venezuela and Peru.

OUST DISTRICT 50

Chicago.—The AFL Amalgamated Clothing Workers has taken over the wan bargaining rights for employes of three plants of Durlacher Co., ousting District 50 of the United Mine Workers, which had represented the workers since 1942.

Court Interferes In Kentucky Strike

Louisville, Ky.—Unwarranted interference by a local court has hampered Local 5 of the AFL Plate Printers, Die Stampers and Engravers Union in its fight for better wages at the Harcourt & Co. engravers.

Circuit Judge Speckman granted a restraining order limiting pickets to three each at the company's front and rear entrances. The union and 14 officers were enjoined from threatening company executives and non-striking employes.

Walter J. Smith, New York, international president of the Engravers, advised AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany that "the union went out on strike after the company refused to bargain."

"The company absolutely refused to bargain with the union," Mr. Smith said. "The company appears willing to remain closed as long as the pickets are at their doors."

He said the union will appreciate any help the AFL and its affiliates can give. The union is now a union shop, approval for which was won in the last board election, and a 10-cents an hour raise.

Edwards Renders Public Service

Washington.—Frank Edwards, AFL news commentator, has compiled an impressive public service record in the short space of time he has been broadcasting under AFL sponsorship.

Edwards won praise from listeners for his commentaries for greater highway safety, to keep rent controls, to help temporarily distressed areas with shipments of surplus food held by the federal government.

Mr. Edwards' program originates in Washington at 10 p.m. Monday through Friday and is broadcast over 147 stations of the Mutual Broadcasting System and many transcribed outlets.

Typical of comments on his work are these:

Washington, D. C.—"You are doing a great public service in giving the facts about rent raises in various cities. Maybe this publicity will have some effect on the unscrupulous landlords."

Palmville, N. Y.—"The little speech you made on automobiles (the 1950 models) was a masterpiece. It was the most forceful thing in anybody's talk I've heard in years."

Mr. Edwards is presented by the 8,000,000 members of the AFL.

Be sure to listen to him and tell your friends.

AFL Convention Calendar

(Following is a list of conventions scheduled for this year by National and International Unions and State Federations of Labor under the banner of the American Federation of Labor. This list is not final nor complete. Additions will be announced later.)

Date, 1950	Organization	Place
Mar. 18	Rhode Island State Fed. of Labor (semi)	Newport, R. I.
April 3	Louisiana State Federation of Labor	New Orleans, La.
April 24	State, County & Municipal Employes	Omaha, Nebr.
May 1	Building Service Employes' Int. Union	Seattle, Wash.
May 1	Hatters, Cap & Millinery Wkrs. Int. Union	New York, N. Y.
May 1	United Wall Paper Crafts of North America	New York, N. Y.
May 1	Order of Railway Conductors of America	Chicago, Ill.
May 1	Brotherhood of Railway Carmen of America	Memphis, Tenn.
May 1	Upholsterers' Int. Union of N. America	Philadelphia, Pa.
May 1	Kansas State Federation of Labor	Topeka, Kans.
May 1	Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor	Philadelphia, Pa.
May 1	Int. Molders and Foundry Workers of America	Cincinnati, Ohio
May 1	Iowa State Federation of Labor	Sioux City, Iowa
May 1	Int. Plate, Printers, Die Stampers, etc.	Philadelphia, Pa.
May 15	Arkansas State Federation of Labor	Fort Smith, Ark.
May 15	Atlantic City, N. J. Federation of Labor	Atlantic City, N.J.
May 17	Georgia State Federation of Labor	Columbus, Ga.
May 19	Texas State Federation of Labor	Roanoke, Va.
May 23	Int. Ladies' Garment Wkrs. Union	Atlantic City N.J.
May 29	Philadelphia Federation of Labor	Philadelphia, Pa.
June 1	Colorado State Federation of Labor	Denver, Colo.
June 5	South Dakota State Federation of Labor	Grand Rapids, Mich.
June 5	Glass Bottle Blowers' Ass'n.	Chicago, Ill.
June 19	Int. Glove Wkrs. Union of America	Milwaukee, Wis.
June 19	Oregon State Federation of Labor	Undecided
June 19	Int. Union of Mine, Mill & Smelter	New York, N. Y.
June 26	Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers	Cleveland, Ohio
June 26	Texas State Federation of Labor	San Antonio, Texas
July 17	Stove Mounters' Int. Union	Louisville, Ky.
Aug. 1	Idaho State Federation of Labor	Coeur d'Alene, Ida.
Aug. 14	Nat'l. Ass'n. of Special Delivery Messengers	Omaha, Nebr.
Aug. 14	Int. Bro. Pulp, Sulphite, etc.	Portland, Ore.
Aug. 14	International Union Federation of Labor	Undecided
Aug. 14	Int. Alliance of Theatrical, Stage Emp.	Detroit, Mich.
Aug. 14	Wisconsin State Federation of Labor	Oshkosh, Wis.
Aug. 21	Utah State Federation of Labor	Richfield, Utah
Aug. 21	Int. Association of Fire Fighters	Undecided
Aug. 21	American Federation of Teachers	Detroit, Mich.
Aug. 21	Bro. of Railroad Signalmen of America	Hamilton, Can.
Aug. 21	Int. Photo Engravers Union	Detroit, Mich.
Aug. 21	Int. Brotherhood Post Office Clerks	Cleveland, Ohio
Aug. 28	West Virginia State Federation of Labor	Clarksburg, W. Va.
Aug. 28	Nevada State Federation of Labor	Reno, Nev.
Aug. 28	American Fed. of Government Employes	Omaha, Nebr.
Aug. 28	Connecticut State Federation of Labor	St. Johnsbury, Vt.
Aug. 28	Wyoming State Federation of Labor	Laramie, Wyo.
Sept. 1	Bro. of Painters, Decorators, etc.	Detroit, Mich.
Sept. 4	Bro. of Railway Carmen of America	Kansas City, Mo.
Sept. 4	Nat'l. Ass'n. of Letter Carriers	Seattle, Wash.
Sept. 5	United Bro. Carpenters & Joiners	Cincinnati, Ohio
Sept. 5	Int. Ass'n. Fire Fighters	Milwaukee, Wis.
Sept. 10	Bro. of Sleeping Car Porters	New York, N. Y.
Sept. 11	Int. Typographical Union	Undecided
Sept. 11	Nebraska State Federation of Labor	Omaha, Nebr.
Sept. 11	Railway Patrolmen's Int. Union	Chicago, Ill.
Sept. 11	New Hampshire State Federation of Labor	Lebanon, N. H.
Sept. 11	Nat'l. Ass'n. Postal Supervisors	Washington, D. C.
Sept. 11	Int. Ass'n. Operative Plasterers, etc.	St. Louis, Mo.
Sept. 11	Int. Union United Carpenti. Ind.	Chicago, Ill.
Sept. 11	Int. Union Chemical Workers	Cincinnati, Ohio
Sept. 11	Int. Bro. Maintenance of Way Emp.	Chicago, Ill.
Sept. 13	United Ass'n. Journeymen & Apprentices	Atlantic City, N.J.
Sept. 15	Arizona State Federation of Labor	Douglas, Ariz.
Sept. 18	Int. Stereotypers & Electrotypers, etc.	St. Louis, Mo.
Sept. 18	Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor	Undecided
Sept. 20	Bro. Railroad Trainmen	Miami Beach, Fla.
Oct. or Nov.	Air Line Pilots Ass'n.	Chicago, Ill.
*Oct.	Ass'n. Air Line Dispatchers	Chicago, Ill.
Oct. 2	New Mexico State Federation of Labor	Carlsbad, N. M.
Oct. 9	California State Federation of Labor	Santa Barbara, Cal.
Oct. 9	Illinois State Federation of Labor	Peoria, Ill.
Oct. 14	Rhode Island State Fed. of Labor (an)	Providence, R. I.
Oct. 16	Int. Bro. Electrical Workers	Miami, Fla.
Oct. 23	Int. Ass'n. Sheet Metal Workers	Chicago, Ill.
*Oct.	American Federation of Millers	Undecided

* Date not definitely set.

Gompers Received First Day Air Mail

By MRS. MARY SHAW
Associated Press Staff Writer AFL News Service

(By Courtesy the Trades Unionist, Washington, D. C.)

ON January 27, the Post Office Department will release a stamp commemorative the 100th birthday of Samuel Gompers. This stamp should affect all AFL philatelists in this and other countries just as it affects me, although I have an idea it goes much deeper in the matter of pride with me than with millions of others because it strikes so near "home." I've been an empire at AFL headquarters since 1934—not long enough to have known Mr. Gompers, but long enough for whom this stamp is to be issued but long enough to realize the importance and significance of January 27.

One of the many cachets that I've already mailed in for first day coverage, carries this: "Samuel Gompers —1850-1950. 100th anniversary of the birth of Samuel Gompers." American labor leader. A cigar maker by trade he was one of the greater prominent workers for the cause of the rights of labor and one of the founders of the American Federation of Labor, 1881. Under his long leadership the federation wielded powerful political influence and was used to secure legislation beneficial to wage earners."

I had the honor of knowing his secretary—Miss Olga Halland—for whom this stamp is to be issued but although I have an idea it goes much

Aeroplanes piloted by army aviators carried consignments of mail from New York and Philadelphia to Washington and from Philadelphia to New York, the mail being piloted by President and Lieutenant Gen. Leroy Boyle, who flew from Washington, Baltimore to Phila., in the presence of Pres. Wilson and other high government officials, was forced to land at Wilmington, Del., 30 miles away, because of a broken propeller.

Delivered in 23 Minutes

The mail was delivered in minutes after a postoffice machine piloted by Lieut. Torrey H. Webb, left the Belmont flying field near New York, the mail bags having been deposited in Wash. Thirty-three minutes later Boyle, piloting the plane piloted the delivery of the 73lb parcel-post package of mail, which replaces for the White House, one of Vice Pres. Marshall and a number for Postmaster General Burleson.

Lieut. Webb's machine reached Phila. at 1:05 p.m. and its mail was transferred to a plane driven by Lieut. Jas. C. Bagley, which reached Wash. at 2:45 o'clock and landed at 2:50. One of the mail bags was for Hon. Speaker of the House Champ Clark.

Postmaster General Burleson suggested only two days' speeds, both comparatively minor, to share the honor of delivering the mail by aeroplane.

The President specified loopholes in the fields, which are not to be closed in order to raise the money that he says is necessary for government by any reduction of excise taxes. He specified:

1. The excessive depletion exemptions granted oil, mining and timber interests; (2) the tax exemptions accorded to the trust institutions that engage in private business enterprise; (3) the tax exemptions enjoyed by charitable trust funds "used as a cloak for private business adventures"; (4) the "quirk" of law which has enabled insurance companies to escape income taxes since 1942; (5) the tax exemption on municipal interest bonds.

Mr. Truman's message reached Capitol Hill it was apparent that it would be one of the most bitterly debated Presidential proposals of this session. Mr. Truman was threatened with important resistance against some of the increases he asked, even from within his own party.

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Chicago AFL Unions Want No More Fires

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent, AFL News Service

Chicago, Ill.—A new building code, intended to stimulate dwelling construction by allowing use of cheaper materials, has been ordained by the Chicago city council.

Through tireless efforts of the Chicago AFL leadership, the future home owners of the city were saved from a proposed code which would have eliminated all requirements for fire resistance in materials and thus left the greatest development potential.

For the first time in more than 30 years, Chicago will now permit erection of frame dwellings within fire limits boundaries, and will permit use of wallboard instead of plaster in interior wall and ceiling finish.

The relaxed standards will be effective only in areas outside the "fire limits." The city council by ordinance can declare part of the city within the fire limits. At present, only about 20 square miles of the city's 234 square miles are outside the fire limits.

The areas outside the fire limits, scattered mostly on the outskirts of the city, include most of the large plots of vacant land, suitable for large-scale building of low-cost homes.

Chicago's new code has been two years in preparation, under direction of John O. Merrill, an architect engaged by the city as special consultant. Merrill's final draft proposed elimination of fire resistive requirements for homes of less than 1,500 square feet of floor space outside the fire limits.

The Chicago Federation of Labor and affiliated unions, led by Byron Dalton, head of the plasterers' union, fought for a code that would provide protection for fire against all but even the smallest of homes.

Dalton's fight was supported by the city fire department, which recommended that wood frame dwelling homes be required to prove a half hour fire resistance. The council was too strict to suit Merrill and his colleagues.

In its final form, the code retains the fire resistive requirements only for homes of 1,000 square feet of floor space or more. In the fire limits places, any wall finish may be used which meets the "flame spread" test and an "impact" test.

The ordinance next requires a wall material to resist the spread of flame at least 20 percent as well as red oak wood. The impact test requires the material to take a wallop from a 60-pound bag of cement at 3½ feet without showing a dent.

For the greater part of the city inside the first limits, and for homes larger than 1,000 square feet anywhere, the fire resistance rating is still required, which means plaster or some other material just as good must be used.

AFL Council Plans Big '50 Campaigns

Miami, Fla.—The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor opened its mid-winter meeting here all set to draft a legislative program and prepare plans for the most intensive political campaign in labor's history.

At the same time, the Executive Council will take action to promote the nation-wide organizing drive of the Federation which has as its goal a million new members this year.

AFL President William Green and other members of the Council who constituted him to Europe for the London conference at which the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions was established, will report on plans for checking the influence of Communists in the labor movements abroad.

The legislative program of the Federation probably will be headed, as in the past two years, by a demand for prompt repeal of the Taft-Hartley act, even though AFL leaders realize there is very little hope of action in that direction by the 81st Congress as at present constituted.

More immediate goals expected to be stressed are passage of liberalizing Social Security amendments and the moderate income housing bill. Both measures are now before Congress.

Perhaps the most significant matter before the Executive Council will be the political campaign, because labor is banking heavily upon the election this year of friendly forces of the nation in the November elections. Before the end of the year, the members of the Executive Council believe, unless an all-out drive is conducted to get out the vote.

The Administrative Committee of Labor's League for Political Education, of which the Executive Council members serve ex-officio, will meet to consider the campaign that has been made thus far in organizing registration and voting drives in the congressional district of the nation. The educational and legislative activities of the League also will be reviewed.

Other items on the agenda to be considered will be reports on establishing a new educational department for the AFL and on the trends and problems of filling the vacancy on the Executive Council caused by the death of William J. Mahon. The Council may elect his successor at this meeting.

Lucy Lang's Book Printed in Japan

Los Angeles.—Lucy Robins Lang's book, "Tomorrow Is Beautiful," is to be published in Japanese.

The volume, published in the United States by Macmillan, is being translated by Dr. Kenji Hokuseido Press. Mrs. Lang was one of the associates of Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the AFL.

"This story of the Americanization of a Russian Jewish girl is well calculated to present to the people of Japan the most vital and wholesome American ideals," pronounced the Los Angeles Times book review section.

ASSIGNED TO PARIS

Paris.—T. E. "Pat" Fraype, former West Coast correspondent for the AFL News Service, has been transferred to the Paris bureau of the Economic Cooperation Administration from Greece to the labor information officer with the ECA mission to Greece, it was announced by editor of the San Francisco Call-Bulletin.

Liberal Forces Win Rules Test

Washington.—Liberal forces backed by the American Federation of Labor won a victory in the House of Representatives in the new session of Congress when the House voted 232 to 192 against restoring to the rules committee its old powers to control legislation.

The vote constituted a major victory for President Truman. The bill has been held widely, and particularly in Administration circles, that at his Fair Deal program was at stake in the issue. He stepped into the controversy twice to urge openly that the rules change be defeated.

About 39 percent of the Republicans voting cast their ballots against the ballot and said "No." On the Democratic side, 80 percent of the party members voting, all from Northern or border states, solidly backed the change.

Under the defeated system a measure bottled up for 21 days by the rules committee may be forced to the floor if the Speaker says "Yes."

The coalition of Republicans and Southern Democrats did not work.

President Asks Excise Tax Cut

Washington.—President Truman recommended that Congress reduce excise taxes while at the same time making no recommendations for an increase in personal income taxes except in special message.

Mr. Truman's threat aimed to veto any reduction that was not balanced by the closing of loopholes in the law to plug up the revenue lost.

Most workers agree would benefit by reduction or elimination of the excise taxes. But the chances for any move

"I believe," the President wrote, "that reductions are most urgently needed in the field of taxes on the transportation of property, transportation of persons, housing, public utilities and telegraph communications and telephone services, including and excluding such items as toilet preparations, luggage and jewelry.

He urged Congress to raise $1,000,000,000 in new revenue sources by increasing the tax rates of larger incomes.

To business in the lower bracket, Mr. Truman said, the tax on the President offered a tax cut to equal the reduction in the excess profits tax imposed on all corporations whose income exceeded $25,000.

Thus the major burden of the proposed new levies would fall on the bigger companies, as Mr. Truman suggested only two individuals, both comparatively minor, to share the tax benefits of reduced estates and gifts.

The President specified loopholes in the fields, which are not to be closed in order to raise the money that he says is necessary for government by any reduction of excise taxes. He specified:

1. The excessive depletion exemptions granted oil, mining and timber interests; (2) the tax exemptions accorded to the trust institutions that engage in private business enterprise; (3) the tax exemptions enjoyed by charitable trust funds "used as a cloak for private business adventures"; (4) the "quirk" of law which has enabled insurance companies to escape income taxes since 1942; (5) the tax exemption on municipal interest bonds.

Mr. Truman's message reached Capitol Hill it was apparent that it would be one of the most bitterly debated Presidential proposals of this session. Mr. Truman was threatened with important resistance against some of the increases he asked, even from within his own party.

CLU ENDORSES SYMPHONY DRIVE

Washington.—The Central Labor Union has endorsed the 1950 campaign to raise $100,000 for the National Symphony Orchestra.

The money will be used to make up the difference needed between ticket sales and expenses to sustain the orchestra's concerts. Mrs. Truman and members of the American Federation of Musicians.

All officers of the central labor union are members of the special labor committee for the orchestra drive. The year Frederick C. P. Preller, Vice President C. C. Turner, Secretary-T. J. Coleman and Treasurer F. H. McGuigan.

Miss Sylvia Altman, director of information and research for the central labor union, is manager of the labor participation department of the Community Chest Federation.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

Samuel Gompers
January 27, 1850
January 27, 1950

WILLIAM GREEN, *President* — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 1950 — GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Half-Century Bears Out Gompers Vision

By MAURICE J. TOBIN
Secretary of Labor

(Delivered on "The Eternal Light" program over National Broadcasting Company on Jan. 22, 1950.)

Named after an Old Testament prophet, Samuel Gompers' life followed in the prophetic tradition.

Like the ancient prophets, Gompers was at once a product of, and a voice crying out for amelioration of, the social and economic evils in the contemporary wilderness. That this strong willed immigrant boy was able to rise to the pinnacle of labor leadership and witness the attainment of a lasting labor organization can be attributed mainly to the American democratic climate which he cherished so dearly. For it is our American democracy which has provided the opportunities for the men who labor in the cities and on the farms to organize to achieve the aspirations which further strengthen democracy.

Sam Gompers' entire adult life was devoted to educating others, both within and without the labor movement, to the realization that trade unions were an integral part of our democracy. He expressed his view of the broad purposes of trade unionism before the AFL convention in 1909, as follows:

"The organized labor movement not only works for the material, moral, political, and social improvement of the organized workers, but it is the level by which these conditions for the unorganized are improved and constitutes the most potent factor in ameliorating the conditions of the whole human family ..."

Within the labor movement, he was constantly reminding the Unions of their duties as well as their rights.

Convinced that our country would benefit by raising social and labor standards throughout the world, he pioneered in the organization of the International Labor Organization, and was particularly concerned with the conditions of workers in Latin American countries.

He set himself a herculean tak in attempting to educate those outside the labor movement. In a period when the open-shop was mistakenly accepted in many quarters as consistent with democratic tradition, he stressed that "A man who has been sold in labor upon such conditions as his employer may determine, cannot by any force be regarded as either free or enjoying liberty."

Like Abraham Lincoln, he sought to convince a public unfamiliar with the aim of trade unions, that our democracy would be served best if the status of the laboring man were improved. Improvement in the status of the mass of industrial workers would stimulate national prosperity. Give the worker an opportunity to become an effective citizen through the voluntary organization of trade unions, he argued, and you will strengthen the foundations of our democratic system.

The social progress and legislative advances in America during the last half century bear out the Gompers' vision.

Sam Gompers has left an indelible mark on the American system of government and on American democracy. He was a democratically conceived and directed trade union movement. If it is conscious of its responsibilities in our society, and is seeking to meet those responsibilities through effective action. It is actively engaged in fighting the activities of radicals who would subvert democracy. In the international sphere, the AFL and the CIO have joined the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions to advance the cause of democratic trade unionism.

This is Sam Gompers' heritage to it and to the American democracy devoted to a democratic America. All of us must join in protecting it.

Helped President Wilson at Paris

Washington.—This is the AFL delegation which helped advise President Woodrow Wilson at the Paris Peace Conference from January to April 1919. Seated (l. to r.), Fiser Vice President James Duncan and President Samuel Gompers. Standing (l. to r.), Third Vice President Frank Duffy, Fourth Vice President Matthew Woll, Secretary Frank Morrison and former Third Vice President John R. Alpine. Vice President Allen W. Barkley and the General Executive Board met on Jan. 5, 1950 that there was no war in America upon whom Woodrow Wilson leaned more heavily or confidently than upon Samuel Gompers."

Veep Says Wilson Leaned on Gompers

Washington.—The United States issued a commemorative stamp on Jan. 27, 1950, bearing the picture of Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the American Federation of Labor.

It is one of the "Famous Americans" series but the first one honoring a leader of organized labor. The date marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Mr. Gompers.

Vice President Barkley for such an honor from his government was Mr. Gompers' outstanding service in World War I. Vice President Alben Barkley spoke during the Gompers Memorial Dinner on Jan. 5, 1950. He said:

"In the great crisis that faced our country in World War I there was no man in America upon whom Woodrow Wilson leaned more heavily or confidently than upon Samuel Gompers."

Vice President Barkley recalled from his personal acquaintance with Mr. Gompers that this country was confronted with the possibility of war in 1916, the AFL president was among the first to pledge wholehearted support to his country for himself and the organization he headed.

It was largely due to Mr. Gompers' influence and determination that the forces of labor were held intact despite subtle and alluring propaganda that might have caused disaster for the cause of the Allies. At a possible critical moment, Mr. Gompers made several trips across the water during wartime to help cement the loyalty of the workers of allied countries at home.

Mr. Gompers was appointed by President Wilson as a member of the Commission on International Labor Legislation which met in Paris Conference at Versailles, near Paris. At the first meeting of the commission he was unanimously elected president. The commission drafted the Labor Charter of the Peace Treaty guaranteeing to workers of all countries an equal opportunity for better conditions of life and labor. The charter grew the present strong International Labor Organization, an arm of the old League of Nations and the present United Nations.

Mr. Gompers related that President Wilson selected him for the post after being urged by a number of international union presidents to do so. Mr. Wilson and the late Alfred E. Smith, governor of New York.

Congress Relaxes Hatch Act Bans

Washington.—The Senate amended the Hatch political activities act to permit federal employees to participate in local party politics in Virginia, Maryland, Oak Ridge, Tenn., and Washington, D. C. suburbs where residents are federal workers.

The Hatch Act, known also as the Clean Politics Act, has been in effect since 1939. It forbids active participation in political campaigns by the great majority of federal employees and the mandatory penalty for its violation is immediate dismissal from the government service. For some years the Civil Service Commission has been reporting apparent injustices under the Hatch Act provisions.

Under the modification voted by the Senate, the Civil Service Commission could decide by unanimous action that an employee suffered for a minor violation. The minimum penalty was set at 60 days suspension without pay.

Amendment "of the Hatch Act was favored by the AFL Government Employes Council as one of its 10 points in the 1950 legislative program adopted at the first meeting of the year.

The Senate version now goes to a conference committee as the bill the House bill passed last session. There were indications the matter might be put over and the amendments would be adopted finally.

REPRESENTS AFL

Geneva.—Frank Jacobs, vice president of the AFL International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, served as worker delegate from the United States to the 30-nation conference of the International Labor Organization on proposals to relieve the crisis of skilled manpower by systematic vocational training of adults and disabled workers.

Auto Workers Gain In Member Drive

Decatur, Ill.—The Eighth Region of the United Automobile Workers of America, AFL, reported its seventh straight bargaining rights election victory in recent months.

Latest plant to fall before the UAW-AFL onslaught was the Sprague-Sells Machinery Company at Hoopeston, Ill. In a National Labor Relations Board election, employees voted by a better than 6 to 1 margin for affiliation with the fast-stepping AFL Auto Workers Union.

Success of the Eighth Regional current campaign is credited in large measure to a new organizational structure setup put into practice several months ago. Eight additional full-time organizers were placed on the payroll, each with the responsibility for a specific geographical section of the region. These district representatives, as they are called, are constantly investigating organizational possibilities and are working for representation elections wherever possible.

Organizing Campaign Gathers Momentum

Seafarers Publish Air Mail Newspaper

New York.—The AFL Seafarers International Union is sending an onion-skin airmail newspaper, "The Bulletin," to 225 ship crews a week in 50 overseas traveling membership ports of call on union agent policies.

The union keeps tabs on the wanderings of Seafarers-contracted vessels through an elaborate card system at headquarters here.

Washington.—The AFL drive for one million new members in 1950 is picking up speed.

Things are really beginning to roll in all sections of the country," said Harry Bates, AFL director of organizing, as he started to work on a progress report for the AFL Executive Council meeting in Miami at the end of January.

The million-member drive was authorized by the AFL convention in St. Paul last October as a yearlong memorial to Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the AFL, born 100 years ago on Jan. 27.

Ohio, Indiana, Minnesota, Kansas, Texas and other state federations held Gompers' memorial organizing and political education rallies within the past month. Others are scheduled for the coming weeks. Everyone told thus far has pulled capacity attendance and generated new enthusiasm for AFL objectives.

Encouraging organizing victories are beginning to roll in. The United Auto Workers region eight has just won its seventh organizing campaign victory, crediting a new technique for success. The Red Textile Workers have enjoyed new raids by a dual organization, while those in the AFL union has held bargaining rights for years.

Mr. O'Reilly disclosed that 206 employees of the Seamless Rubber Co., Fayetteville, N. Y., voted to join the AFL Federal Union charter. They no longer desire to be affiliated with the CIO, he said. Seamless Rubber Co., former left-wing CIO union.

Mr. O'Reilly has defined the AFL organizing objective this year as an effort to give every American wage earner a chance to join the American Federation of Labor and get better wages and working conditions and greater status in the civic, social and economic life of his community.

Buy Gompers stamps!

Ohio Begins Drive To 'Repeal' Taft

Columbus, Ohio.—The Ohio State Federation of Labor published its political campaign for 1950 by adopting a "Declaration of Principles" approved by the 1,400 delegates in attendance at a state convention.

The declaration was two-fold—calling for cooperation of all state bodies with the American Federation of Labor in its efforts to add 1,000,000 new members in the nation, and getting all members of labor unions to register and vote against Senator Taft.

The 2-day session was opened by a brilliant banquet-meeting and the official opening of the new headquarters of the Federation at 275 East State Street.

Principal speakers at the banquet were Senator Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota and Joseph D. Keenan, director of the national League for Political Education; Bishop Michael J. Ready, of the Columbus Diocese, and William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor.

The Minnesota Democratic senator said that "Ohio Republican politics symbolizes the opinion and philosophy of Republican leadership in Washington and throughout the nation." He added:

The GOP-Dixiecrat coalition has been blessed and made legal by Republican leadership from Ohio. The new brand of isolationism that includes no commitments to Europe pushed the Navy for Formosa, was conceived and brought into life on the banks of the beautiful Ohio.

"Ohio is the warnings of statism and the cries of welfare state seem to grow louder as we approach every election."

Senator Humphrey, in calling for aggressive, constructive political action on the part of organized labor reminded his audience that elections are not won by "accident."

"Elections are not won by top brass strategy," he said. "Elections are won by hard work and active participation in every precinct and ward in the country."

This is the job which the American Federation of Labor Political and Educational League is undertaking. It has advanced its program with emphasis that the success and effectiveness will be in the election of Ohio labor.

President Green called upon voters of Ohio to send liberal men to Congress.

Frank Hannah, secretary of the Ohio Federation of Labor's Educational and Political League, stated in announcing the state political rally:

"We are not, as labor generally alleges, we will beat him with ballots."

Hannah said the Federation will not take part in the Democratic primary for the election of a opponent to Senator Taft.

The Ohio State Federation of Labor shall abide by the decision of Ohio labor and support wholeheartedly politically the candidate they pick," he said.

Hannah called the defeat of Taft in Ohio the first step in the drive to repeal the Taft-Hartley Law is to "repeal the author of it" in the fall of November.

The Ohio campaign, Hannah said, will be directed by a united labor front of CIO, AFL, Railway Labor Workers, Association of Machinists, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Order of Railway Conductors, Brotherhood of Railway Clerks and Brotherhood of Way Employes, represented by a state committee for political action.

Dressmakers Plan New Philly Home

Philadelphia.—A $400,000 home will be erected by the dressmakers union at 928 N. Broad St.

The modern building will be the Dress Joint Board and an International Vice President of the Ladies' Garment Workers Union of the AFL, said the new headquarters will be used not by only house the union offices now at 128 N. Tenth St., but also the Union Health Clinic, now located at 226 and Locust Sts.

Building contracts have been let with the United Building Construction Company. Engineering Consultants are the Architects.

The new building, Otto said, is evidence of the union's faith in the stability of the city's dress industry employing 12,000 members of the Joint Board.

Edwards Helps Win Laundries' Election

Indianapolis, Ind. — Frank Edwards, AFL news commentator, helped the AFL Laundry Workers' International Union win an organizing election in Indianapolis laundries.

Edwards, in a broadcast urging organizer for the union, told Mr. Edwards to send him a letter. He thanked the AFL commentator on behalf of President Dan J. Byers of the Laundry Workers. Mr. Byers wrote:

"I want to take this opportunity on behalf of our International Order of Laundry Workers' International Union for your splendid cooperation in our recent organizational campaign in Indianapolis, Indiana. Edwards. I am pleased to inform you that we won the election by a majority of 2 to 1 vote which shows a definite reflection of your splendid recommendation and approval of AFL leadership.

"Your broadcast Monday night, January 16, was heard by more than 4,000 workers who were in attendance at our mass meeting held that night at the Indianapolis Coliseum. Your commentary on the Indianapolis situation was straightforward, truthful, and exceptionally well stated. You received a tremendous hand of applause at our meeting and all of us who were so interested in winning this fight appreciated your thoughtfulness in speaking as you did and you devoted to the Indianapolis campaign. Best wishes always."

"A total of 2,173 votes was cast in the election, 1,272 of which were cast for the AFL; 506 votes cast for the CIO, and 395 votes cast for no union; 281 challenged votes which were not counted, would not affect the result. Needless to say our membership is highly elated over the results of the election and we are looking forward to the first contract negotiations and negotiations which will begin about March 1, 1950. Our organizing staff has been a very strong factor in helping our union and we are now anticipating very favorable results from the negotiations with the employers.

"Before closing I want to tell you how much I have personally been enjoying your AFL Friendly Editorial. I have heard many favorable remarks about your comments and analysis by other persons. It is one of the finest moves to better our public relations of which the AFL has ever made."

ADD SKILLED WORKERS

Washington.—The Department of Labor estimates that 72,970 craftsmen will be added to the skilled labor force of American industry in 1950 through the federal apprenticeship training program supported by AFL unions.

Pilot Credit Union Most Far Flung

(By Cooperative News Service)

Chicago.—The world's most far-flung credit operation—for the little folks—is a thriving business just two miles from the Midway airport here.

It is the credit union owned by members and employes of the Air Line Pilots Association of the AFL. It finances everything from turkey feed on U. S. farms to shiny new Cadillacs for Pilots in United States and foreign countries.

Here's an example of how it works: A rush request for a loan came from a pilot captain who had been transferred to Karachi, Pakistan. Reason for his new base was to the Equator, the capital of Pakistan. The captain-pilot sweltered under Egypt's tropical sun until the union came to his rescue through with extra cash for summer clothes.

The credit union started less than two years ago. Today, with hundreds of ALPA presidents, conceived the idea of helping each other out as fellow members of his outfit. From a modest beginning, the union has since made almost 500 loans to nearly 1,100 members with a loan volume of about $200,000.

ENLIST LABOR IN BOND DRIVE

Washington.—The machinery of organized labor is being set in motion to bring the message of United States Savings Bonds to every worker in the nation.

Vermon L. Clark, National Director of the Savings Bond Division of the Treasury Department, said that local labor leaders in more than 200 industrial communities throughout the nation will present a weekly series of labor-management radio broadcasts in the series of broadcasts. Committees are being appointed in each state to work with State Directors of the Treasury Department's Savings Bonds Division. These committees will appoint outstanding local labor leaders in each community to present the programs.

"The Treasury Department expects this to be the most successful large scale undertaking of this type in the history of the Savings Bonds Division," Mr. Clark said.

Credit Checks for Airline Pilots

Chicago.—The clocks which Cashier Gerry Nelson (left) holds in her fist represent loans to members of the Air Line Pilots Association of the AFL. The union credit committee checks on the credit of the global airlines which union members fly. The union finances everything from aston in Pyra to lightweight clothes in sunny Egypt for the roving pilot members.

Show Is Symbol Of Better Living

Washington.—Matthew Woll, president of the AFL Union Label Trades Department, said that the 1950 AFL Union Industries Show in Philadelphia May 6-13 "is a graphic symbol of better living standards for all Americans."

Mr. Woll said in a statement:

"Our fifth show will be an exemplification of industrial progress and it will be entertaining as well as educational. The public will be able to visualize the contribution which skilled and efficient union services extend through the channels of management and which have brought to the American people a position which has no equal in the world.

"I firmly believe that our security and prosperity depend upon purchasing union-made-in-America products and upon the use of union services. Also buying products of the combination of engineering, manufacture and craftsmanship which distinguish fair employers, America is destined to enjoy even higher standards of living."

Woll Maps Plans For 1950 CARE Aid

New York.—Far-reaching plans for continued CARE aid by American labor in Europe and underdeveloped regions during 1950 were recently mapped by Matthew Woll, AFL vice president, in conversation with Marshall Maclennan, CARE director.

Mr. Woll is president of the Labor Committee for CARE Rights, the staff arm of the AFL which for some time past has been expanded as a broad aid program to bolster free labor movements abroad.

The Labor League, and the Free Trade Union Committee of which Mr. Woll is chairman, as well as other AFL activities from the local to the international union level, during the past year have been among the largest purchasers of CARE packages. In addition, thousands of AFL members have sent individual CARE food and textile packages to friends and relatives abroad.

Contributions to the AFL-CARE campaign may be sent to any local or international union, or direct to the Labor Section, AFL-CARE Committee of CARE, 20 Broad St., New York 5.

Give to the March of Dimes.

AFL Orders Gompers Stamps For Mail

Washington.—AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany said he has ordered Samuel Gompers Memorial stamps to be used on AFL outgoing mail.

The stamp, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth of Mr. Gompers, founder and first president of the AFL, went on sale here on Jan. 27, Mr. Gompers' birthday.

The AFL sent memorial first day covers with a brief biography of Mr. Gompers and bearing the commemorative stamp to international union presidents, government officials and others.

Gompers' Record In World War I

Washington.—Following is a thumbnail sketch of some of the things Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the AFL, did in and with World War I:

Member Advisory Commission to Council of National Defense which supplemented and worked jointly with council.

As member of Advisory Commission organized first War Labor Committee which developed war labor policies until governmental war labor agencies were created.

Assisted personally and appointed labor representatives to draft plans for war labor agencies resulting in War Labor Board and War Labor Policies Board.

Arranged three labor missions to Europe, serving as chairman of one, one attending the Inter-Allied Labor Conference to prevent defeatists and pacifists from controlling inter-allied labor movements.

Appointed by President Wilson member of the Commission on International Labor Legislation of the Peace Conference at Versailles and elected chairman of commission which drafted labor portion of the peace treaty.

Cooperated in pre-war survey of business. Took initiative to secure labor's constructive support of government by labor's prewar pledge.

Jointly with Secretary of War Newton Baker signed eantonment agreement establishing labor standards on war construction and provided adjustment agencies. This agreement prepared the way for other war agreements.

Arranged for labor representatives on three boards to secure high standards in the draft.

Designated labor representative for agency.

Appointed first committee to draft the enabling act for soldiers' and sailors' compensation.

Appointed representative to help draft rehabilitation plan.

Spoke in Liberty Loan drives and arranged for other labor speakers.

The AFL supports the American Heart Association drive.

Green, Meany Back Chest Programs

Washington.—AFL affiliates are urged to expand their participation in year-around activities of the Community Chests and Councils.

This action was taken at a resolution adopted at the fifth AFL convention in St. Paul. Copies of the resolution and a request that local AFL affiliates take action to implement the recommendations have been sent by AFL President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany to officials of international unions, state federations, central and local unions.

"Please note," Mr. Green and Mr. Meany said, "that in this resolution the convention recommended that the AFL be represented on Community Chests and Councils, and that the Community Chests and Councils be urged to inaugurate or expand the participation of AFL members in their year-around activities.

"Please give the resolution your favorable consideration and action."